

Journals of Congress

JOURNALS OF CONGRESS. WEDNESDAY, *AUGUST* 14, 1776.

A letter of the 12th from general Washington with a return of the army at New-York, and sundry other papers inclosed being received, was read.

Also sundry letters from England were read.

Resolved, That the letter from general Washington with the papers inclosed, be referred to the board of war.

On request of the delegates of New-Jersey,

Resolved, That the tutors in Princetown college be detained from going to the flying camp, and that the said tutors be directed to continue in the said College exercising their several functions.

The committee appointed to devise a plan for encouraging the Hessians and other foreigners to quit the British service, brought in a report which was taken into consideration, whereupon Congress came to the following resolution.

Whereas it has been the wise policy of these states to extend the protection of their laws to all those who should settle among them of whatever nation or religion they might be, and to admit them to a participation of the benefits of civil and religious freedom, and the benevolence of this practice as well as its salutary effects have rendered it worthy of being continued in future times.

And whereas his Britannic majesty, in order to destroy our freedom and happiness has commenced against us a cruel and unprovoked war; and unable to engage Britons sufficient to execute his sanguinary measures, has applied for aid to foreign princes,

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who are in the habit of selling the blood of their people for money, and from them has procured and transported hither considerable numbers of foreigners. And it is conceived, that such foreigners, if apprized of the practice of these states, would chuse to accept of lands, liberty, safety and a communion of good laws, and mild government in a country where many of their friends and relations are already happily settled, rather than continue exposed to the toils and dangers of a long and bloody war, waged against a people guilty of no other crime than that, of refusing to exchange freedom for slavery; and that they will do this the more especially when they reflect, that after they have violated every christian and moral precept by invading and attempting to destroy those who have never injured them or their country, their only reward, if they escape death and captivity, will be a return to the despotism of their prince to be by him again sold to do the drudgery of some other enemy to the rights of mankind.

And whereas the parliament of Great-Britain have thought fit by a late act, not only to invite our troops to desert our service but to direct a compulsion of our people taken at sea to serve against their country.

Resolved, Therefore, that these states will receive all such foreigners who shall leave the armies of his Britannic majesty in America, and shall chuse to become members of any of these states; and they shall be protected in the free exercise of their respective religions, and be invested with the rights, privileges and immunities of natives as established by the laws of these states; and moreover that this Congress will provide for every such person fifty acres of unappropriated lands in some of these states, to be held by him and his heirs in absolute property.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolution be committed to the committee, who brought in the report, and that they be directed to have it translated into German, and to take proper measures to have it communicated to the foreign troops.

Resolved, That Dr. Franklin be added to the said committee.

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The committee of treasury reported that there is due, To captain William Ross for subsistence and ferriage of his company of sixty-seven men of colonel Smith's battalion, on their march from York county to New-Jersey, the sum of 52 dollars, and forty-nine ninetieths: To Daniel Smith for captain Gamble's allowance for 26th April to 10th August inst. being 15 weeks, at 2 dollars a week, the sum of 30 dollars: To John Davis for 33 days hire of a waggon transporting the baggage of captain Hay's company of colonel Irwin's battalion from Carlisle to New-York, 110 dollars and for 41 meals supplied captain Thomas Turbutt's company of colonel Wilson's battalion on their march from Cumberland county to New-Jersey, the sum of 4 dollars, and nine ninetieths: To John Eshenbach for 19 meals supplied recruits of captain Cluggage's company of colonel Hand's battalion 1 dollar, and eighty-one ninetieths: To colonel Clement Biddle for 150 camp kettles, 200 dollars: To Dr. John Coates for a set of surgeons instruments lost on his march with general Arnold from Cambridge to Quebec, the sum of 26 dollars and sixty ninetieths: To Sarah Campbell for nursing and boarding seven sick men belonging to captains Beaty, Benezet and Miller's companies, 30 dollars, and seven ninetieths.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid. A petition from Elisha Swift and Adonijan Spanborough was presented to Congress and read. *Resolved*, That it be referred to the delegates from Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

The board of war brought in a report which was taken into consideration: whereupon, *Resolved*, That monsieur Weibert, now serving in the continental army at New-York as an engineer, be appointed assistant engineer, with the rank and pay of lieutenant-colonel;

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